

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Straws in the Wind

From the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#): *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill hasn't tenured a single professor in fields outside the health sciences since January — an unusual period of inaction that has spurred confusion and alarm among faculty.*

At its normal meeting last week, the university's Board of Trustees deferred a vote on pending tenure cases outside of the health-affairs schools. At its March meeting, the board didn't act on any tenure cases, and in January, it only approved two tenure bids outside the health sciences: one professor at the civic-life school and another at the School of Social Work...

Jennifer Lloyd, a trustee and former professor of the practice in UNC's economics department, told The Chronicle in an email that she was the only trustee to vote against a motion to defer consideration on tenure decisions at the March meeting. "I ... always seek to be a fair and honest advocate on issues impacting faculty," she wrote. A spokesperson said the university could not comment on this vote since it was taken during a closed session. John P. Preyer, the board's chair, did not respond to a message seeking comment...

The board's inaction also comes at a time when state legislatures nationwide have aimed to weaken tenure or add stipulations to it. A wave of bills propose post-tenure reviews or productivity requirements, and lawmakers in Texas and Nebraska have even introduced legislation to outright ban tenure...

The board's next full meeting is scheduled for July 31.

Full story at <https://www.chronicle.com/article/at-chapel-hill-only-health-sciences-professors-have-been-getting-tenure>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:     

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [U of North Carolina](#)

Flip-Flop? - Part 3 (His Oh No! Moment)

From the [NY Times](#): *Florida officials on Tuesday rejected the candidacy of Santa Ono to lead the University of Florida, after he had been accused of leniency toward pro-Palestinian protesters while he served as president of the University of Michigan. The University of Florida's board unanimously approved Mr. Ono last week, but the state's Board of Governors, which oversees the sprawling State University of System of Florida, did not ratify his selection.*



The Best Flip Flops for Men of 2025 ...

Republicans celebrated the unexpected move. Mr. Ono had already given notice that he would be leaving his job in Michigan. But in recent weeks he had been criticized by some conservatives in the state over his past stances on diversity and inclusion programs, although he wrote an opinion essay disavowing them...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/03/us/santa-ono-university-of-florida-president.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:     

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [U of Florida](#)

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Lawsuit on NSF Funding

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From the [LA Times](#): *California [last] Wednesday joined 15 other states filing suit against the National Science Foundation and its acting director, alleging the agency has illegally terminated millions of dollars in grants and imposed new fees that have ended or crippled research vital to health, the economy and the advancement of knowledge... The lawsuit, filed in federal court in the Southern District of New York, specifically targets the science foundation for "terminating grants for scientific research that seeks to promote and understand diversity in higher education and the workforce," according to a statement from California Atty. General Rob Bonta...*



The suit also seeks to overturn the Trump administration's 15% cap on indirect costs related to research, which universities say are critical to carrying out their work...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-05-28/california-democratic-states-sues-to-stop-trump-cuts-to-nsf-science-research-grants>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#)

Flip Flop? - Part 2

We earlier posted about U of Michigan President Ono's seeming flip-flop on DEI when offered the presidency of the U of Florida.* The drama continues. From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

Despite mounting conservative criticism over Santa Ono's stance on diversity, equity and inclusion, the University of Florida Board of Trustees on Tuesday overwhelmingly voted to hire the former University of Michigan president as its next leader... But his candidacy faced heavy criticism from conservative critics... who called for an investigation into the search that yielded Ono due to his past remarks on DEI. Some critics have claimed that Ono is a radical liberal academic who made an about-face on DEI due to careerist ambitions.



The Best Flip Flops for Men of 2025 ...

"I did not come to bring DEI back; I came to make sure it never returns," Ono told UF trustees. Ono argued that while he initially agreed with the aims of DEI programs, while president of the University of Michigan he came to see that such initiatives were divisive and diverted resources from student success, leading to his decision to shutter the DEI office there earlier this year. He argued that "large DEI bureaucracies" stifle open dialogue and erode trust on campus and that "it became clear to me through experience, not theory, that something had gone wrong."

"I understand and support what Florida's vision for higher education represents: a decisive move away from ideological bias and activist-driven culture that has come to define too many colleges and universities in this country and abroad," Ono said. "The goal is not to replace one orthodoxy with another. It is to restore balance, to protect the pursuit of truth and create a university environment where all students can thrive, regardless of their viewpoint. Florida is showing the nation that it's possible to elevate academic excellence without ideological indoctrination."

...Ono was asked multiple times about concerns of rising antisemitism on campus. He responded that antisemitism is "a persistent threat, especially on college campuses" that "too often hides behind the language of political critique" and has been "normalized in the name of activism." Ono also emphasized a commitment to keeping Jewish students safe at UF. Asked about his decision to allow a pro-Palestinian encampment to remain at Michigan for 30 days, Ono said that the university did not want to escalate the situation and create an atmosphere of unrest close to commencement. He added that he spoke with Jewish students who were worried about how removing the encampment might disrupt commencement. Ono also said that Michigan subsequently updated its time, place and manner policies to prevent future encampment protests.

...Although the UF Board of Trustees approved the Ono hire, it's not a done deal, as the Florida Board of Governors has the final say. That board will meet in either mid-June or at a special meeting to consider Ono. That could provide another opportunity for Ono's conservative critics to derail the hire if the Board of Governors comes out against the selection...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/executive-leadership/2025/05/27/uf-board-votes-unanimously-hire-ono>.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/05/flip-flop.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [diversity](#), [U of Florida](#), [U of Michigan](#)

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Contributors

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Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 14



From Politico: The Trump administration is escalating its campaign against Harvard University — and looking for new ways to bring the storied institution to heel. The White House convened officials from nearly a dozen agencies on Wednesday to brainstorm additional punitive measures, according to one administration official and a second person familiar with the meeting, who were granted anonymity to share details. The administration official said that forthcoming actions are expected from the State, Treasury, Health and Human Services and Justice departments, among others, and could happen as early as next month.

The push comes as the White House regroups after a federal judge blocked its move to bar Harvard from enrolling international students, **and underscores how President Donald Trump has grown increasingly invested in the battle**. Even as some in the administration privately grouse that the aggressive posture is allowing Harvard to win public sympathy, Trump has kept up the attacks, threatening in a post last week to revoke its tax exempt status and chastising Harvard again Wednesday during an unrelated press conference.

...But with the low-hanging policy options already underway, the administration knows it will need to get more creative to keep squeezing the school, according to two administration officials and another person familiar with the talks, who like others in the story were granted anonymity to share details of private conversations. The administration would not comment on what it is considering but some options include having the Department of Justice expand its investigation into the university's admissions policies or **cutting money to medical institutions affiliated with Harvard**...

Full story at <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/05/30/white-house-convenes-meeting-to-brainstorm-new-harvard-measures-00376782>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Harvard](#), [health care](#), [politics](#)

Monday, June 2, 2025

Terms Not Disclosed

From the Mercury News: Notre Dame de Namur University, a historic Catholic institution, announced Tuesday it reached a deal for the University of California to purchase its 100-acre Belmont campus.*

UC's investment arm will lease the current facilities back to Notre Dame de Namur University for five years as part of the agreement, according to a news release. NDNU officials said the deal would provide time for UC to plan its long-term use of the property and for NDNU to find a new location in San Mateo County. **Details about UC's future plans or potential relocation sites for NDNU were not immediately available. The terms of the deal, including the sale price, were not disclosed...**

"UC Investments moved quickly to explore this unique investment opportunity close to the heart of Silicon Valley," said Jagdeep Singh Bachher, UC's chief investment officer. "We're convinced this long-term asset will greatly benefit UC, Notre Dame de Namur University, and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur for at least the next 100 years."

The Belmont institution had spent four years negotiating a potential sale to Stanford University, but that deal fell through in February. Stanford attributed its decision at the time to "changes in the landscape for research universities," stating these changes were "resulting in greater uncertainties and a different set of institutional and financial challenges for Stanford." ...

As part of the deal, UC will renovate two historic buildings on the campus: Ralston Mansion and the Carriage House, both designated national and California historical landmarks...

Full story at <https://www.mercurynews.com/2025/05/28/notre-dame-de-namur-uc-campus-deal-belmont/>.

Yours truly is so glad to learn that UC doesn't face any of those nasty "changes in the landscape for research universities" or "uncertainties" that Stanford does.

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*News release at <https://www.ndnu.edu/notre-dame-de-namur-university-announces-sale-agreement-of-nearly-100-acres-of-property-to-uc-investments-university-of-california/>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:     

Labels: endowment, pension, Stanford, UC

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 13



From the [NY Times](#): President Trump... said Harvard should have a cap on the number of international students it admits to create more spots for Americans, undercutting his administration's argument that merit alone should guide admissions practices as it escalates its fight with the elite university.

Mr. Trump's comments came in response to a question about the Department of Homeland Security's recent move to revoke the school's ability to enroll foreign students. The college immediately challenged that decision in court, and a federal judge has temporarily blocked the policy...

Asked whether the administration wanted to preserve more slots in college for U.S. citizens, [Secretary of Education Linda] McMahon said that "universities can determine that process."

"We don't want to see quotas," Ms. McMahon said, referring to a Supreme Court case that rejected the use of affirmative action in college admissions. "That was discrimination, and the Supreme Court said that is absolutely not fair. So we want to make sure that people who come in are coming in on merit."

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/28/us/politics/trump-harvard-international-students.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:     

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

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